

RADIANT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

HI-LITES

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Each of Us has the Power to Control Our Costs

We expect summers to be hot, and most of us do all we can to keep our homes as comfortable as possible, even as outdoor temperatures edge thermometers upward.

When it comes to electricity, each of us has the power to help control our costs—we just need to make thoughtful choices to make energy savings pay off in dollars and cents.

Look toward the west. If you don't have trees, a porch overhang or awnings shading your windows with sun exposure, there's a good chance the radiant heat is driving up indoor temperatures and adding to your overall cooling costs.

Window coverings can help. Blinds or shades can deflect intense sunlight, and draperies lined with a thermal radiant barrier can block up to 95 percent of sunlight and 100 percent of ultraviolet rays.

Comfort and cooling are easier to maintain when we take advantage of air flow. A ceiling fan can pull warm air up above your living zone, making a difference during summer months. The evaporative cooling effect

of circulating air blowing across our skin makes us more comfortable, but that benefit completely disappears when we leave the room. Turning fans off in unoccupied rooms will save energy.

HVAC filters have a lot to do with airflow through your heating and cooling systems. Dirty filters restrict circulation through your returns, requiring your cooling system to work harder. If you can see dirt in a filter, it is

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Energy-intensive activities like doing laundry can increase heat and humidity inside your home. Try time-shifting these types of chores to off-peak hours, when energy demand is lower.

LCEC Names New General Manager



Dennis Svanes

The board of directors of Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative (LCEC) has announced Dennis Svanes as their new General Manager. Svanes started May 20 and will play a major role in the consolidation of Radiant Electric and

LCEC to 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative in January 2020.

Svanes comes to LCEC from La Plata Electric Association, Inc. in southwest Colorado, where he served as chief financial officer overseeing accounting, billing and enterprise risk management.

Prior to La Plata Electric, Svanes was the chief executive officer of KEM Electric Cooperative, Inc. in North Dakota having started with the cooperative as the staff accountant. He also worked for Knife River Corporation in Bismarck, ND, and Brady, Martz & Associates, PC in Grand Forks, ND, a regional public accounting firm.

"I appreciate the confidence from the Lyon-Coffey and Radiant Electric boards of directors in selecting me as the new general manager. My wife, Michelle, and I are excited for this opportunity and look forward to serving the members of the cooperatives."

Svanes grew up on his family's farm in south-central North Dakota and earned his bachelor of accountancy from the University of North Dakota and is a certified public accountant and a Charter Global Management accountant.

Lyon-Coffey Board Vice President David Kunkel, stated "The board was impressed with Dennis Svanes' history and experience in the electric cooperative industry and looks forward to his taking the lead at the cooperative."

Each of Us has the Power to Control Our Costs *Continued from page 16A* ▶

likely 50 percent clogged. Follow manufacturers' recommendations on replacing disposable filters or cleaning permanent ones. If you have pets, consider checking filters more frequently.

You can save money and electricity by time-shifting some of the most energy-intensive activities away from peak energy use periods that normally occur during the hottest hours of the day. Cooking, doing laundry and using power tools can increase both heat and humidity inside your home, making it harder to reach or maintain a comfortable temperature.

Remember, controlling energy costs will always work better with buy-in from everyone in the household.

- ▶ One open window anywhere can be like an uncapped chimney, pulling the conditioned air you pay to cool outside.
- ▶ A gaming system, computer or big screen television left on but



Ceiling fans help keep us cool during the summer, but that benefit completely disappears when we leave the room. Turn fans off in unoccupied rooms to save energy.

unwatched produces nearly as much heat as it does when it's in use.

- ▶ Lighting and ventilation fans add convenience and provide benefits when they are needed. However, if they are left on and unattended, they use energy with no benefit.

- ▶ A bag of ice poured into a cooler will chill summer beverages as effectively and less expensively than an aging refrigerator in a hot garage.
- Call Radiant Electric at 620-378-2161 for details on programs that can help you control your energy costs and avoid seasonal billing challenges.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY—JUNE 16

From our co-op family to yours,
Happy Father's Day.

Tips for Maintaining an Efficient HVAC System

Ah, summer. Cookouts, swimming pools, camping—it's the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. And when it's time to come back indoors, there's nothing better than the cool blast you feel from your home's air conditioning unit.

Your heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system is essential to keeping your home comfortable during summer months. Unfortunately, if it breaks down, it's also the most expensive equipment to repair or replace. Luckily, there are simple steps you can take to lengthen the life of your HVAC system.

Change or clean filters. Dirty filters block airflow, which can greatly decrease the efficiency of your system. The Department of Energy recommends changing or cleaning filters every month or two during the cooling season. If your unit is in constant use or is subjected to dusty conditions or pet hair, consider checking filters more frequently.

Clean the HVAC unit. Outdoor condenser coils can become clogged with pollen, dirt and small debris. Use a hose to spray the HVAC unit once each season to ensure maximum airflow. (Warning: Do not use a pressure washer to do this, as it can damage the equipment.)

Remember, your HVAC system runs best when it's regularly cleaned and serviced. With a little maintenance along the way, you can add years to your system's life span.

Clear space around the HVAC unit. Dryer vents, falling leaves and grass left behind from the lawnmower can create buildup. Remove any debris around the HVAC unit. If you have foliage near the unit, trim it back at least 3 feet around the condenser to increase airflow.

You should also have your HVAC system periodically inspected by a licensed professional. The frequency of inspections depends on the age of your unit, but the Department of Energy recommends scheduling tuneups during the spring and fall, when contractors aren't as busy.

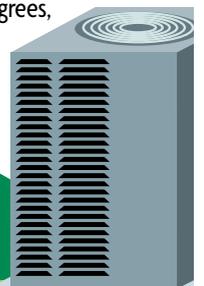
When HVAC equipment fails, it's inconvenient and uncomfortable—especially during the dog days of summer. Remember, your HVAC system runs best when it's regularly cleaned and serviced. With a little maintenance along the way, you can add years to your system's life span.

3-Step HVAC Test

As summer temperatures rise, so do electric bills. Follow these steps to test your HVAC unit efficiency.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and set your thermostat well below room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for a proper test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about \$12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.



Does Your Home Improvement Project Qualify for Rebates?

Home improvement season is in full swing. Radiant Electric wants to make sure you know about the rebates available for electric water heaters and heat pumps being installed on our system. Some qualifications apply, but if your new purchase fits the criteria, let us know!

For new electric water heaters:

Rebates include \$100 for an electric water heater with a standard warranty term and \$150 for a water heater with a lifetime warranty. Water heaters must be installed on our system and have a minimum capacity of 40 gallons. We need to know the installation type (if the electric water heater is installed in new construction, is a replacement for a non-electric water heater, or is a replacement for another electric water heater), along with the manufacturer, warranty term, capacity and proof of purchase.

Important tip: Before energizing

a new water heater, fill the tank completely and bleed off any air to prevent damage to elements from a partially filled tank.

For new heat pumps: Size of the home and climate are very important when considering the type/size of unit to install. To qualify for the rebate, heat pumps must be installed on our system. We need to know if installation is for new construction, replacement of non-electric heating/cooling system or replacement of an existing electric heating/cooling system. In addition, we need to know if the heat pump is air-source or geothermal, along with manufacturer, model number, tonnage, proof of purchase and the energy factor, which determines the rebate amount.

Geothermal rebates are \$125 per half-ton. We need to know what type of loop is used along with coefficient

of performance and energy efficiency ratio.

Air-source heat pumps are the most common. The rebate depends on the seasonal energy efficiency ratio and heating seasonal performance factor.

Rebate	SEER Rating
\$50 per half ton	14.5 to 16
\$75 per half ton	16 to 17
\$100 per half ton	17 and above

As a reminder, if you change your home's primary heating system to electric from an alternate fuel source, like propane, you can qualify for the electric heating rate, which can save you money on your winter heating bills from October through May. Give us a call if you have any questions about rebates or your electric heating system.

Local Event CALENDAR

CHANUTE

- JUNE 7 – First Fridays**
- JUNE 7 – Health Fair at Recreation Commission**
- JUNE 7 AND 8 – Neosho County Relay for Life**
- JUNE 15 – MIRZA Shriners SEKCAT Car Show**
- JUNE 22 – History Exposition in Katy Park**
- JUNE 22 & 23 – Don Everly Baseball Tournament at Santa Fe Park**
- JULY 4 – Celebration and Fireworks at Santa Fe Park**
- JULY 5 – First Fridays**

ELK CITY

- JUNE 1 – Citywide Garage Sales**
- JUNE 30 – Freedom Sunday.** 7 p.m. at ballfields. Hot dogs, musical entertainment and fireworks.

FREDONIA

- JUNE 1 – Statue Splash & Dash Walk/Run.** Registration 8-8:30 a.m. at the Stonehouse gazebo. 9 a.m. start. Family friendly walk/run. Explore the new sculptures around town with a splash of color along the way. \$15/person, fundraiser for Fredonia Arts Council. Call 620-378-2052 for more information.

- JUNE 8 – Wilson County Wildflower Ditch Drive.** 9 a.m. Meet at 8748 700 Road, Fredonia. Guided tour highlighting all types of plants along county roads. For more information call Wilson County Conservation District at 620-378-2866.
- JUNE 15 – 4-H Dog Show.** 8 a.m. Wilson County Fairgrounds.
- JUNE 22 – Demolition Derby.** 7 p.m. Wilson County Fairgrounds.
- JULY 4 – City Fireworks.** Sundown at Pryor/John Field & Stadium.

INDEPENDENCE

- EVERY MONDAY – VFW Bingo Night.** 7 p.m. games, Bingo Packs \$7, 113 E Myrtle.
- EVERY TUESDAY – Mid-Continent Band.** 8 p.m. Riverside Park Band Shell.
- EVERY SATURDAY – Farmers Market.** 7:30 a.m., corner of Penn. Avenue & Myrtle.
- JUNE 1 – Miss Able's Summer Blastoff: Celebrating 60 Years Since Miss Able's Historical Space Launch.** All day, various venues.
- JUNE 3-6 – Greenbush Summer Camp: Design It, Build It, Take It Home.** 9 a.m.-noon, ICC Fab Lab, 2564 Brookside Dr.
- JUNE 6 – First Thursday.** 5-8 p.m. Downtown.
- JUNE 6 – Under the Rainbow: Oral Histories of LGBTQ People in Kansas.** 6 p.m. at Independence Public Library, sponsored by Project Q&A.
- JUNE 8 – Little House on the Prairie Museum's Prairie Days Festival.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 2507 CR 3000.

- JUNE 10-13 – Greenbush Summer Camp: Robotics Camp.** 9 a.m.-noon, ICC Fab Lab, 2564 Brookside Dr.
- JUNE 14-16 – Children's Summer Theatre Presents: The Day Aliens Attacked Fairfield.** 7 p.m. Friday & Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. Williams Inge Theater.
- JUNE 17-20 – Greenbush Summer Camp: Community Solutions.** 9 a.m.-noon, ICC Fab Lab, 2564 Brookside Dr.
- JUNE 21-23 – Children's Summer Theatre Presents: 101 Dalmatians Kids.** 7 p.m. Friday & Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. Williams Inge Theater.
- JUNE 2 – All-Wheels Night & Cruisin' Indy.** 6 p.m. Downtown.
- JUNE 21 – Relay for Life of Montgomery County.** 6 p.m.-6 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Coffeyville.
- JUNE 24-27 – Greenbush Summer Camp: Robotics Camp.** 9 a.m.-noon, ICC Fab Lab, 2564 Brookside Dr.
- JUNE 28-30 – Children's Summer Theatre Presents: Beauty and the Beast, Jr.** 7 p.m. Friday & Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. Williams Inge Theater.
- JUNE 28-JULY 12 – Verdigris Valley Art Exhibit.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Historical Museum and Art Center.
- JUNE 29 – Teen Movie Night.** 7 p.m. pre-show at CNBT parking lot; 9 p.m. movie.
- JUNE 30 – Ring, Sing and Swing Concert.** 6 p.m. at Memorial Hall.